

a return spring for elastically urging the cam follower in the axial direction so that the first latchet tooth is engaged with the second latchet tooth;

a rotatable actuating member spline coupled with the cam follower; and

a contact element switching mechanism actuated by the rotation of the actuating member, wherein at least one of the actuation body and the cam follower is formed of an elastomer.

2. (Original) A push switch device according to claim 1, wherein the actuation body is formed of the elastomer as well as the cam follower is formed of a plastomer whose elasticity is lower than that of the elastomer.

3. (Original) A push switch device comprising:

a housing arranged in a hollow structure and having a guide portion formed on an inner surface;

an actuation body which can be moved in an axial direction by being guided by the guide portion and to which a first latchet tooth is formed so as to extend in a circumferential direction;

a cam follower which is disposed in the housing so as to rotate as well as to move in an axial direction and to which a second latchet tooth is formed so as to be engaged with the first latchet tooth;

a return spring for elastically urging the cam follower in the axial direction so that the first latchet tooth is engaged with the second latchet tooth;

a rotatable actuating member spline coupled with the cam follower; and

a contact element switching mechanism actuated by the rotation of the actuating member, wherein at least the extreme ends of the tooth portions of one of the first and second latchet teeth are formed in an arc shape.

4. (Original) A push switch device comprising:

a housing arranged in a hollow structure and having a guide portion formed on an inner

surface;

an actuation body which can be moved in an axial direction by being guided by the guide portion and to which a first latchet tooth is formed so as to extend in a circumferential direction;

a cam follower which is disposed in the housing so as to rotate as well as to move in an axial direction and to which a second latchet tooth is formed so as to be engaged with the first latchet tooth;

a return spring for elastically urging the cam follower in the axial direction so that the first latchet tooth is engaged with the second latchet tooth;

a rotatable actuating member spline coupled with the cam follower; and

a contact element switching mechanism actuated by the rotation of the actuating member,

wherein an elastic member whose spring load is smaller than that of the return spring is interposed between the actuation body and the cam follower.

5. (Original) A push switch device according to claim 4, wherein both the return spring and the elastic member comprise a coil spring.

6. (Currently Amended) A push switch device according to claim 4 ~~or~~ 5, wherein at least one of the actuation body and the cam follower is formed of the elastomer.

7. (New) A push switch device according to claim 4 ~~or~~ 5, wherein at least one of the actuation body and the cam follower is formed of the elastomer.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SDB", is written over the printed name.

Steve D Beyer  
Reg. No. 31,234

P.O. Box 778  
Berkeley, California 94704-0778  
(650) 961-8300